

Chapter 7. CONSULTATION

An integral part of all the Department's fisheries management programs is consultation with other agencies, qualified professionals in the fisheries management field, and interested individuals. To this end, Department staff involved with fisheries management are continually in contact with other agencies and professional biologists involved with all aspects of fisheries management.

The Department's fisheries management staff works closely with local commercial harvesters, recreational user groups, and with State, Federal and local agencies with land and water management interests that can affect or be affected by the creation new Marine Protected Areas at the Channel Islands.

In addition to maintaining close informal contact (telephone, field meetings, and etc.) with personnel from other agencies involved with fisheries and wildlife management, Department personnel also maintain formal contact with personnel representing fisheries management agencies, universities, and the private sector by attending professional fisheries management workshops, conferences, and seminars. Such activities provide for regular, up-to-date interchange of ideas and findings between Department personnel and other professionals.

Throughout the process to develop the proposed project various local, State, and Federal agencies and commissions were consulted, including the following:

Local Agencies:

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara City Council
Santa Barbara Harbor Commission
Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Harbor Commission
Ventura County Fish and Game Commission

State Agencies:

California Resources Agency
California Coastal Commission

Federal Agencies:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Channel Islands National Park

In addition to providing updates and consultation, staff from the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Fisheries Service participated in the Marine Reserves Working Group, and staff from Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S.

Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service, Channel Islands National Park, California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, and Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties participate on the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Prior to preparing this environmental document, the Department issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The notice was provided to individuals and organizations that have expressed prior interest in Commission regulatory actions. The NOP was also submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to appropriate responsible and trustee agencies for their input and comments.

Every effort has been made to consider relevant issues brought forth in response to the NOP as well as during the MRWG process in this environmental document, including the development of alternatives to the proposed project.